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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/818,547	03/28/2001	Yoshifusa Togawa	1075.1152	9434

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EXAMINER

LIM, KRISNA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

DATE MAILED: 07/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/818,547

Applicant(s)

TOGAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Krisna Lim

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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1. Claims 1-27 are presented for examination.
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reilly [U.S. Patent No. 6,427,164].

4. Reilly discloses (e.g., see Fig. 2) the invention substantially as claimed. Taking claim 1 as exemplary claims, the reference discloses a mail system comprising: a) a mail source (sending server, abstract (line 5)) from which an e-mail is sent; b) one or more destinations (recipient, a receiving server) which receive the e-mail from the mail server at their respective mail address (e.g., see the abstract, cols. 3-4); c) a mail address manager (Fig. 2, the abstract, cols. 3-4) managing the respective mail addresses of the destinations, the mail address manager being operative, in response to updating of the mail address (forwarding address, abstract (line 3), cols. 3-4) of at least one destination, to register ("the recipient ... has left a forwarding address", abstract, col. 4 (lines 14-15)) a new destination mail address in correlation with such old destination address.

5. Reilly does not explicitly mention either the term "mail source" or "mail address manager". However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to recognize that Reilly's sending server is obviously the mail source as claimed because the e-mail is received from Reilly's sending server. Moreover, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

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invention was made to recognize that Reilly's e-mail servers 140 and 240 are obviously the mail address manager as claimed because Reilly's e-mail servers perform similar operations as claimed mail address manager.

6. As to claim 2, Reilly discloses the mail address manager (e.g., see Fig. 2, the abstract, and cols. 3-4) is a mail server (e-mail server 140) which receives an e-mail from the mail source and sends the e-mail to at least one destination mail address.

7. As to claim 3, Reilly discloses the mail address manager is a plurality of mail server (140, 240 of Fig. 2) which manages the mail address of two or more destinations separately (the abstract, cols. 3-4).

8. As to claim 4, Reilly discloses a mail sending section (forwarding, see the abstract, cols. 3-4) sending a particular e-mail, which is addressed to the old destination mail address, to the new destination mail address.

9. As to claim 5, Reilly discloses a notifying section notifying the mail source that the mail address of at least one destination has been updated (e.g., see the abstract, lines 8-9).

10. As to claim 6, Reilly discloses a mail address rewriting section (see the abstract, lines 8-11) rewriting the mail address of at least one destination in an e-mail address book when the mail source is notified by the notifying section that mail address of the at least one destination has been updated (e.g., see the abstract, lines 8-11, cols. 3-4).

11. As to claim 7, Reilly discloses a mail storing section temporarily storing a particular e-mail (e.g., see col. 3, lines 29-30), which is addressed to the old destination mail address, until the new destination mail address is registered by the mail address manager (e.g., see col. 4, lines 14-15).

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12. As to claim 8, Reilly discloses the mail address manager to register the mail address of the destination and attribute information (e.g., see col. 3, lines 27-35) respectively unique to the destination in correlation with each other.

13. As to claims 9-27, they are similar in scope as of claims 1-8, and therefore claims 9-27 are rejected for the same reasons set forth above for claims 1-8.

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The references are cited in the Form PTO-892 for the applicant's review.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) months and 0 (zero) days from the mail date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application (see 35 U.S.C 133, M.P.E.P 710.02, 710.02(b)).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Krisna Lim whose telephone number is (703) 305-9672. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Glenton Burgess, can be reached at (703) 305-4772. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is as following:

(703) 746-4481 [Direct Fax Number]
(703) 746-7238 [After Final Communication]

or

(703) 746-7239 [Official Communication]
(703) 746-7240 [For Status inquiries, draft communication]

and/or

(703) 306-5631, (703) 306-5632 or (703) 306-5633 for [Customer Service Numbers]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

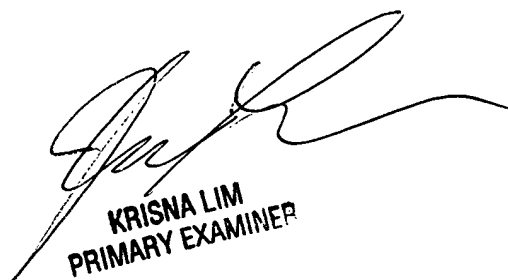
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Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [glenton.burgess@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communication will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirement of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Office Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

kl

July 2, 2004



KRISNA LIM
PRIMARY EXAMINER